

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,024,606 to Ming-Hwa. This determination is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner contends that Ming-Hwa anticipates independent claims 1, 11 and 17 of the present application. With regard to claim 1, the Examiner states:

Ming-Hwa discloses a connector for terminating a coaxial cable (40) comprising: a generally cylindrical connector body (20) having a detent (22) disposed therein; and a generally cylindrical locking sleeve (13) coupled to the connector body (20) and having at least one protrusion (16) formed thereon partially encircling less than the full circumference of the locking sleeve (13) and for being received in the detent (22) when the coaxial cable (40) is terminated in the connector. See Figs. 1-6.

This determination is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner contends that the Figures of Ming-Hwa disclose a connector having a cylindrical body 20 and a locking sleeve 13 coupled to the cylindrical body 20. The Examiner further contends that the locking sleeve includes at least one protrusion 16 formed thereon partially encircling less than the full circumference of locking sleeve 13.

In reviewing the Figures of the Ming-Hwa reference, there is no clear disclosure that protrusion 16 partially encircles less than a full circumference of locking sleeve 13.

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Referring to the Ming-Hwa reference at column 3, lines 13-15 it is stated that “rearwardly inclined projecting shoulders 16 adjacent annular groove 15 are formed on clamping sections 14”. While the plural is used for the term “shoulders” there is no support in the drawings or in the remainder of the specification which clearly discloses that protrusion 16 partially encircles less than a full circumference of the locking sleeve.

The protrusion 16 is also described in Ming-Hwa at column 3, lines 26-31, where shoulder is incorrectly referred to as reference numeral 15. In this portion of the specification, the projecting shoulder is clearly indicated as being singular. More clearly, however, is the recitation in both the Abstract as well as in claim 1 of Ming-Hwa where the projecting shoulder is clearly described as being annular. This indicates clearly a complete unbroken ring.

Accordingly, taking the reference as a whole, there is no clear disclosure, sufficient for anticipation purposes under 35 U.S.C. §102, which shows the protrusion partially encircling less than a full circumference of the locking sleeve. In fact, clearly just the opposite is described in Ming-Hwa as the protrusion or shoulder is shown as being completely annular. Accordingly, failing to clearly disclose a limitation of the claim, Ming-Hwa cannot be anticipatory of claim 1.

Referring now to independent claim 11, the Examiner contends as follows:

Ming-Hwa discloses a connector for terminating a coaxial cable (40) comprising: a connector body (20) having an annular detent (22) disposed therein; and a locking sleeve (13) detachably coupled to the connector body (20) having a plurality of protrusions (16), spaced circumferentially and evenly formed thereon and for being received in the detent (22) when the coaxial cable (40) is terminated in the connector. See Figs. 1-6.

This determination is respectfully traversed.

Similar arguments presented with respect to claim 1 equally apply here. Ming-Hwa fails to show a plurality of protrusions 16 spaced circumferentially and evenly formed on the locking sleeve. Again, the specification of Ming-Hwa clearly describes that the projecting shoulder 16, which the Examiner contends forms the protrusion, is an annular member and not a plurality of circumferentially spaced, evenly formed elements. Taking the disclosure of Ming-Hwa as a whole, it is clear that Ming-Hwa does not anticipate claim 11 of the present application.

Finally, with respect to claim 17, the Examiner contends:

Ming-Hwa discloses a connector for terminating a coaxial cable (40) comprising: a connector body (13) having a cable receiving end (shown in Fig. 2) and a projection (16) disposed therein, a locking sleeve (20) insertably received in the cable receiving end (shown in Fig. 2) of the connector body (13) and having a rearward end (shown in Fig. 2), a smooth annular portion (24) and at least one groove (22) formed between the rearward end (shown in Fig. 2) and the smooth annular portion (24); and wherein the projection (16) slides along the smooth annular portion (24) and is subsequently received in the groove (22) when the coaxial cable (40) is terminated in the connector body (13). See Figs. 1-6.

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This determination is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 17 clearly recites that the connector must include a connector body having a cable receiving end and a locking sleeve which is insertably received in the cable receiving end of the connector body. The Examiner equates component 13 (actually male clamping tube 10) shown in Figures 1 and 2 with the connector body described in claim 17. The Examiner additionally equates a female clamping tube 20 with the locking sleeve of claim 17. As noted above, claim 17 specifically requires that the locking sleeve be insertably received in the cable receiving end of the connector body.

In order for the Examiner's interpretation of the Ming-Hwa reference to equate to claim 17, the female clamping tube 20 must be insertably received in the male clamping tube 10. In actuality, as clearly shown by the drawings, just the opposite is the case. The male clamping tube 10 is inserted into the female clamping tube 20 (thus the use of the nomenclature "male" and "female"). This arrangement is the direct opposite of the structure claimed in claim 17 where the locking sleeve is received in the connector body. Accordingly, as Ming-Hwa fails to show the limitations set forth in claim 17, Ming-Hwa cannot be anticipatory thereof.

Having responded in full to the present Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 11 and 17, as well as the claims which depend therefrom, are patentably

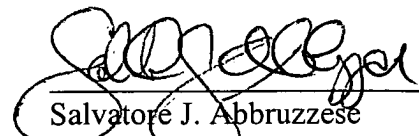
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distinct over the Ming-Hwa reference. Therefore, the application, including claims 1-20, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 20-0776. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the undersigned would be pleased to address them by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



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